

Senate Bill 170

By: Senators Smith of the 52nd, Moody of the 56th, Mullis of the 53rd, Butler of the 55th, Seay of the 34th and others

AS PASSED

AN ACT

To amend Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," so as to provide that American Sign Language can be used to fulfill the foreign language requirements for a college preparatory diploma for any student; to amend Chapter 1 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to handicapped persons, so as to recognize American Sign Language as an important language of the deaf community in Georgia; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

Part 3 of Article 6 of Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to educational programs under the "Quality Basic Education Act," is amended by revising Code Section 20-1-151.1, relating to American Sign Language as a foreign language for college preparatory curriculum and for Carnegie unit elective credits, as follows:

"20-2-151.1.

(a) For the purpose of fulfilling the foreign language requirements for a college preparatory curriculum seal of endorsement on a high school diploma, a demonstrated proficiency in American Sign Language shall be accepted as a foreign language for any student by all local boards of education and the State Board of Education. A demonstrated proficiency in American Sign Language shall be accepted as the equivalent of the required two units of a foreign language.

(b) For the purpose of earning Carnegie unit curriculum credits at the high school level, American Sign Language may be accepted by the State Board of Education for two or more units of elective credit or for two or more units of foreign language credit, pursuant to subsection (a) of this Code section."

SECTION 2.

Chapter 1 of Title 30 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to general provisions relative to handicapped persons, is amended by revising Code Section 30-1-6, which is reserved, to read as follows:

"30-1-6.

The General Assembly finds that:

- (1) American Sign Language is a fully developed, autonomous, natural language with distinct grammar, syntax, and symbols, and is one of hundreds of signed languages of the world; and
- (2) American Sign Language is the fourth most commonly used language in the United States and Canada."

SECTION 3.

All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.